Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An optical multilayer comprising a polymeric substrate having a non-zero out-of plane birefringence and an amorphous polymeric overlayer that comprises an amorphous polymer having a Tg value above 160°C and having the sign of its out-of-plane birefringence opposite to that of the polymeric substrate so as to provide a total out-of-plane phase retardation of said optical multilayer of between –30nm and 30nm for wavelengths of light between 400 and 700nm, wherein the out-of-plane birefringence of said polymeric substrate is negative and the out-of-plane birefringence of said amorphous polymeric overlayer is positive.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) An optical multilayer according to claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein the out-of-plane birefringence of said amorphous polymeric overlayer is more positive than 0.005 at a wavelength 550nm.

4. (Original) An optical multilayer according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of said amorphous polymeric overlayer is between 1 and 50μm.

5. (Original) An optical multilayer according to claim 4 wherein, the thickness of said amorphous polymeric overlayer is between 5 and 20μm.

6. (Original) An optical multilayer according to claim 1 wherein, the transmission of said optical multilayer is higher than 80%.

7. (Original) An optical multilayer according to claim 6 wherein, the transmission of said optical multilayer is higher than 90%.

8. (Currently amended) An optical multilayer according to claim 1 ~~2~~ wherein, said amorphous polymeric overlayer comprises a polymer with negative intrinsic birefringence.

9. (Original) An optical multilayer according to claim 8, wherein said polymer has non-visible chromophores off of the polymer backbone.

10. (Currently amended) An optical multilayer according to claim 1 ~~2~~ wherein, said amorphous polymeric overlayer comprises at least one polymer containing A) poly (4 vinylphenol), B) poly (4 vinylbiphenyl), C) poly (N-vinylcarbazole), D) poly(methylcarboxyphenylmethacrylamide), E) poly[(1-acetylindazol-3-ylcarbonyloxy)ethylene], F) poly(phthalimidoethylene), G) poly(4-(1-hydroxy-1-methylpropyl)styrene), H) poly(2-hydroxymethylstyrene), I) poly(2-dimethylaminocarbonylstyrene), J) poly(2-phenylaminocarbonylstyrene), K) poly(3-(4-biphenylyl)styrene), L) poly(4-(4-biphenylyl)styrene), M) poly(4-cyanophenyl methacrylate), N) poly(2,6-dichlorostyrene), O) poly(perfluorostyrene), P) poly(2,4-diisopropylstyrene), Q) poly(2,5-diisopropylstyrene), and R) poly(2,4,6-trimethylstyrene).

11. (Original) An optical multilayer according to claim 1 wherein, the thickness of said polymer substrate is between 10μm and 5mm.

12. (Original) An optical multilayer according to claim 1 wherein, the thickness of said polymer substrate is between 30μm and 2mm.

13. (Currently amended) An optical recording medium comprising a recording layer and optical multilayer according to claim 1 disposed on at least one side of said recording surface.

14. (Original) An optical recording medium according to claim 13 wherein, polymeric substrate of said optical multilayer is polycarbonate.

15. (Original) A polarizer comprising a polarizing layer and optical multilayer according to claim 1 disposed on at least one surface of said polarizing layer.

16. (Original) A polarizer according to claim 15, wherein the polymeric substrate of said optical multilayer is triacetylcellulose.

17. (Original) A polarizer according to claim 15, wherein said polarizer is reflective polarizer.

18. (Original) A polarizer according to claim 15, wherein said polarizer is transmissive polarizer.

19. (Original) A liquid crystal display comprising a liquid crystal cell and at least one polarizer of claim 15.

20. (Currently amended) An optical multilayer according to claim 1 ~~2~~ wherein, said amorphous polymeric overlayer comprises at least one copolymer made from the following list of monomers: A) 4 vinylphenol, B) 4 vinylbiphenyl, C) N-vinylcarbazole, D) methylcarboxyphenylmethacrylamide, E) (1-acetylindazol-3-ylcarbonyloxy)ethylene, F) phthalimidoethylene, G) 4-(1-hydroxy-1-methylpropyl)styrene, H) 2-hydroxymethylstyrene, I) 2-dimethylaminocarbonylstyrene, J) 2-phenylaminocarbonylstyrene, K) 3-(4-biphenylyl)styrene, L) 4-(4-biphenylyl)styrene, M) 4-cyanophenyl methacrylate, N) 2,6-dichlorostyrene, O) perfluorostyrene, P) 2,4-diisopropylstyrene, Q) 2,5-diisopropylstyrene, and R) 2,4,6-trimethylstyrene.

STATEMENT OF COMMON OWNERSHIP

Applicant's attorney hereby states that this patent application and the application that matured as U.S. 6,937,310 were, at the time the present invention was made, owned by, or subject to an obligation to assignment to the same person.